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PAGE 01 STATE 004521
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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. KOREA: PAK TO PROPOSE TROOP WITHDRAWAL TIE-IN

THE SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER ADVISED AMBASSADOR SNEIDER ON JANUARY 7 THAT PRESIDENT PAK WILL RENEW HIS LONG-STANDING PROPOSAL TO NORTH KOREA FOR A MUTUAL NON-AGGRESSION PACT AT HIS ANNUAL JANUARY PRESS CONFERENCE. THE PRESIDENT INTENDS TO STATE THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THAT IF NORTH KOREA ACCEPTS A PROPOSAL WHICH INCLUDES THE CONTINUATION OF THE EXISTING ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, THE ROKG WILL NOT OPPOSE THE REDUCTION OF US TROOP LEVELS IN SOUTH KOREA. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT SINCE SEOUL EXPECTS THAT THE NORTH WILL ONCE AGAIN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 004521

TURN DOWN THE PROPOSAL, THE BASIC PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISE WILL BE TO GIVE THE ROK A MORE FLEXIBLE INTERNATIONAL IMAGE ON THE SUBJECT OF US TROOP WITHDRAWALS. (SECRET) SEOUL 159 (EXDIS), 1/7.)

2. SOVIETS REACT TO US OFFICIALS' STATEMENTS

TASS FOREIGN INFORMATION CHIEF KORNILOV EXPRESSED CONCERN TO EMBASSY MOSCOW'S PRESS ATTACHE ABOUT ALLEGED ATTEMPTS BY FORD ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS TO INFLUENCE NEGATIVELY

THE ATTITUDE OF THE INCOMING CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOWARD THE USSR. KORNILOV DESCRIBED RECENT STATEMENTS BY DEFENSE SECRETARY RUMSFELD AND CIA DIRECTOR BUSH AS "DESIGNED TO REACTIVATE THE ARMS RACE." HE SAID THE SOVIET UNION MUST TAKE A SERIOUS VIEW OF THESE STATEMENTS AS REFLECTIONS OF US POLICY, AND HE CHARACTERIZED A TASS COMMENTARY BY NOTED POLITICAL ANALYST VALENTIN ZORIN AS A SEMI-OFFICIAL SOVIET RESPONSE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: KORNILOV'S REMARKS PROVIDE FIRST-HAND CONFIRMATION THAT THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE SOVIET MEDIA THAT PRESSURE IS BEING PLACED ON THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION BY THE FORD ADMINISTRATION ARE CENTRALLY DIRECTED. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MOSCOW 244, 1/7.)

3. PALESTINIANS: A SOVIET OFFICIAL'S VIEW

A SOVIET MFA OFFICIAL DEALING WITH THE MIDDLE EAST TOLD EMBASSY MOSCOW THAT DEFINITE, BUT STILL "UNOFFICIAL," POLITICAL DECISIONS ARE LIKELY TO EMERGE FROM THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (PNC) MEETING IN CAIRO. HE SAID THE KEY ISSUES WILL BE:

--THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE;
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 004521

--THE DETERMINATION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF A FUTURE PALESTINIAN STATE; AND

--THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

THE OFFICIAL NOTED THAT WHILE THE PALESTINIANS HAD TO PARTICIPATE AT GENEVA, THEIR PRESENCE MIGHT NOT BE REQUIRED AT THE FIRST OF THE CONFERENCE'S TWO STAGES. HE SAID THE REAL ISSUE THERE WOULD BE THE UNREALISTIC ATTITUDE OF THE ISRAELIS, WITH MUCH DEPENDING ON THE DEGREE OF PRESSURE THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION COULD AND WOULD EXERT ON THEM. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 286, 1/7.)

4. MOROCCAN/SOVIET RELATIONS

EMBASSY RABAT REPORTS THAT DESPITE CONTINUED COOL BILATERAL RELATIONS RESULTING FROM SOVIET PARTIALITY TOWARD ALGERIA

ON THE SAHARA ISSUE, THERE HAS BEEN SOME INTENSIFICATION OF SOVIET/MOROCCAN ACTIVITY ON THE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY FRONTS. NOTABLE EVENTS INCLUDE:

SECRET

--RABAT'S GRANTING AEROFLOT AN ADDITIONAL FLIGHT, CONSISTING OF A FUEL-STOP IN CASABLANCA ON THE ROUTE FROM MOSCOW TO GUINEA-BISSAU;

--A VISIT BY THE SOVIET MINISTER OF GEOLOGY; AND

--UNPUBLICIZED DISCUSSIONS WITH A VISITING SOVIET MILITARY DELEGATION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE WE PERCEIVE NO MAJOR SHIFT IN MOROCCAN POLICY TOWARD THE USSR, RABAT NO LONGER SEEMS TO

SECRET

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PAGE 04 STATE 004521

VIEW THE SOVIET STAND ON THE SAHARA ISSUE AS A BAR TO IMPROVED RELATIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) RABAT 118, 1/7/)

5. JAMAICA: MANLEY GOOD ON DEMAGOGY, BAD ON ECONOMIC REALITY

EMBASSY KINGSTON REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER MANLEY ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 5 THAT THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS WILL REQUIRE THE JAMAICAN PEOPLE TO ACCEPT AUSTERITY. MANLEY:

--SAID THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF THE CRISIS ARE COLONIALISM AND CAPITALISM;

--EXPRESSED HIS OPPOSITION TO DEVALUATION OF THE JAMAICAN DOLLAR AND TO THE CUTBACKS SUGGESTED BY THE IMF IN HIS "PEOPLE'S PROGRAMS;" AND

--SAID JAMAICA WILL NOT ACCEPT "ANYONE ANYWHERE" TELLING IT HOW TO RUN ITS AFFAIRS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: MANLEY'S PERFORMANCE WAS REGRETTABLY EXCELLENT DEMAGOGY; HOWEVER, HIS FAILURE TO DEAL MORE REALISTICALLY WITH THE BUDGETARY SHORTCOMINGS OF HIS LAST GOVERNMENT AND HIS REFUSAL TO TAKE OPEC'S ROLE INTO ACCOUNT SUGGEST THAT HE REALLY ISN'T PREPARED TO DEAL IN HARD TRUTHS.

(CONFIDENTIAL) KINGSTON 108, 1/6.)

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